

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday, April 2, 2013 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, April 2, 2013 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, M. Kelly, S. Krishnan, D. Stillinger, Township Committee Liaison Kathy Abbott and township resident Marilyn Murray.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2013 and January 2014 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2013 AND JANUARY 2014

Every first Tuesday February through December 2013 and the second Tuesday in January 2014.

February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July NO MEETING, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3 in 2013 and January 14, 2014.

APPROVE GREEN TEAM AND CTEC MINUTES March 5, 2013

Steve Carroll motioned to approve the CTEC and Green Team minutes and Mike Kelly 2nd, with all in favor. With an approved change regarding the sapling sale in which it was observed that the township and Investors Savings were both contributing \$4000 each. Correction to reflect that only Investors Savings will contribute \$4000, which is to be used for the purchase of 80 unsold saplings, if necessary.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY BRONZE CERTIFICATION AWARDED TO CHATHAM TOWNSHIP CONGRATULATIONS TO STEVE CARROLL!!!!

GREEN TEAM MEETING

Sustainable Jersey has approved Chatham Township's application for Bronze certification, awarding 160 points where only 150 were needed.

CTEC was in agreement that they will work towards Bronze recertification for 2015. They reviewed actions that could be implemented and the points that they would achieve. They also felt that being apart of Sustainable Jersey has made an impact on CTEC attaining different criteria. They also felt that the public would have greater participation, which has not been the case.

Lou Caprioglio discussed the Green Checklist regarding a major revision to separate categories for residential and commercial properties and improved organization for a better flow. The Planning Board is scheduled to review the revised Green Checklist at the April 8th meeting. S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

SAPLING SALE

CTEC approved buying 400 trees and including them in the Morris County Soil Conservation District February tree order. Township Committee approved contingency spending of \$4,000 from the grant received from Investors Savings Bank to buy up to 80 unsold trees for planting on public land. The three (3) tree meetings were held, 270 trees were purchased. 130 trees remaining. CTEC discussed holding a fourth meeting but agreed it was not necessary. All concurred that additional trees will be sold at the pick-up date.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

PENDING. Bhee properties, Block 61, Lot 10, 697 Fairmount Ave. Application to Planning Board to subdivide an acre property into two 1/2-acre lots in the R-3 (1/2-acre) zone. Fifty-foot drop from Sunset Drive to Fairmount Ave. Proposed usable lot area is only half of that required on each lot. Variances requested for very large deviations from required slope disturbances. Soil is loose and depth to bedrock is small so much potential for erosion and storm water runoff. Site visit Saturday, April 6 at 9 AM. (mostly likely cancelled due to plan revisions)

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance.

NEW. Loantaka Lane South – developer sent letter to DEP asking for transition area waiver for wetlands. Sheriff sale in 2012 of property to current owner.

REPORTS

Planning Board report. Master Plan will be put on Township website. Bhee property – revising plan, site visit will have to be rescheduled. CTEC has concerns and would like to see placement of a Conservation Easement on the Bhee property. Steve Carroll motioned to send a memo to the Planning Board urging the township to request a Conservation easement on the Bhee property. Shankar Krishnan 2nd with all in favor. The Green Checklist will be discussed at the April 8th meeting. The Planning Board proposes to track the number of boxes checked on each application and have the totals reviewed each year. There was some discussion as to the checklist being self explanatory and hesitation that this could one day become a law. L. Caprioglio, Planning Board liaison.

Township Committee report. Open Space tax reduction ordinance to be finalized. CTEC received positive feedback from the Township Committee regarding sapling sale. Acquisition of the Fornaro property. K. Abbott, Township Committee liaison.

Open Space Committee report. Averett property concerns with trails and reforestation with live stakes - baby trees in deer repellent tubes and then steward the parcel to keep invasive down and restore the canopy. Evaluating on how to approach property owners to purchase their land for open space. Open Space tax reduction. Unapproved culvert insertion at 348 Green Village Road, flood hazard area. Owner will replace according to building code. S. Krishnan and M. Schaaf, Open Space Committee liaisons.

Communications Committee report. Tree sale information to be posted on website. F. Esposito, Chair.

Recycling Committee report. Recycling Awards dinner rescheduled. Awards to be given for CTEC recycling video and Rocket Composter. Frequency and cost of pickups is being reviewed. F. Esposito, Chair.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report.

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- "New owner" letter sent to three new owners of properties with conservation easements.
- Annual Workday will be held on Saturday, April 20 at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area. Trail needs to be clipped and outlined with poles, wood chips spread, more trash in the rear debris piles needs to be removed. We could use a nice sign at the entrance. Possible connection between Conservation Area and the Loantaka Bike Trail via the Platt, now Morris County park, parcel. Possibility of a loop trail through the former Kirby, now Chatham Township, parcel. Open Space Committee is urging formal protection of the former Stoller parcel so the area will be eligible for grants. Volunteers wanted. Choose a task from the Task list if you want.
- Greeve conservation easement needs to be accepted and recorded. Planning Board final subdivision approval was granted 3-21-96.
- Report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District (www.mcsd.org/) on how Chatham Township is doing on its soil and sediment erosion control.

- Safe Routes to School - update. Report submitted to Township Committee, application will be made for grants and Gold status with the SRTS organization. "This (Chatham school district) was the only school district in which every school participated in SRTS programs throughout the school year." K. Abbott.
- Complete Streets - update. K. Abbott.
- Urge Township Committee or Planning Board resolution requiring applicants to submit site plans, storm water plans, Environmental Impact Statements, engineer reports and other documents in pdf form.
- PSE&G's power line upgrade. About 2.5 miles are in Chatham Township. Of the 15 towns along the route Chatham Township has the second-longest run, after Livingston's 10 miles. Berkeley Heights has about 2 miles. Letter has been sent to NJDEP from CTEC urging good vegetation management in power line rights-of-way and revegetation with native species.
- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- March 2013. Letter to three new owners of properties with conservation easements mentioning the existence of a conservation easement on part of their property.
- January 2013. Letter to NJDEP urging good vegetation management in power line rights-of-way, including the North Central Reliability Project, and revegetation with native species.
- September 2012. Letter to NJDEP urging care in delineating wetlands on Block 102.11, Lot 10.01.
- July 2012. Letter to Passaic River Coalition supporting their proposed purchase of 4 parcels along the river. Letter to Township Committee urging denial of T-Mobile request to violate a conservation easement.
- June 2012. Memo to Board of Adjustment urging protection of wetlands on Block 102.11, Lot 10.01. Memo to NJDEP urging protection of wetlands on Block 69, Lot 15.
- May 2012. Letters to NJDEP and NJBPU urging conditions before granting PSE&G an Individual Wetlands Permit for disturbance along the Branchburg-Roseland right-of-way.
- April 2012. Memo to Township Committee urging adoption of the Planning Board's version of a steep slopes ordinance.
- March 2012. Memo to NJDEP concerning wetlands permit application for building improvements, Simonfay, 118 Westminster Road, B 48.10 L7. Memo to NJDEP concerning wetlands permit application, PSE&G gas line maintenance.
- February 2012. Memo to Board of Adjustment concerning Currie, 43 Susan Drive, B 20 L 15, building on steep slopes.
- January 2012. Letter sent to Township Committee urging purchase of a gas rather than diesel backup generator for the sewage treatment plant at Chatham Glen.

EVENTS

- April 3, 2013, Wednesday. 8-9:30 AM. SEAMLESS. The speaker at this meeting will be Jim Jones, the new Executive Director of the Morris County Economic Development Corporation. He will discuss the state of commercial office space in Morris County. This is an important subject at present because Morris County has the highest vacancy rate of any county in New Jersey, at 43%. Jim has a wealth of experience in this area from his career in office development.
- April 6, 2013, Saturday. Environmental Federation is holding its 27th annual conference, Stand Up for New Jersey: Fighting for Clean Water, Air & Communities, on Saturday, from 8 am – 5 pm at Georgian Court University. <http://www.cleanwateraction.org/njef>.
- April 17, 2013, Wednesday. Recycling awards dinner rescheduled, 6:30 p.m. at the Hanover Manor, 16 Eagle Rock Ave., East Hanover. RSVP to pjones@mcmua.com by April 1.
- April 20, 2013. 8 AM to noon. Pick up saplings at the Long Hill DPW, 163 South Warren Avenue (off Valley Road just past ShopRite) in Stirling
- April 20, 2013, Saturday. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Annual Workday at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area. Trail needs to be clipped and outlined with poles, more trash in the rear debris piles needs to be removed, wood chips need to be spread. Volunteers wanted.
- April 23, 2013 9 am - 3 pm, New Jersey Contemporary Environmental Issues Conference, Rutgers EcoComplex, Bordentown, NJ. Free but must register at <http://saalem.rutgers.edu/nre/conference.html>. Brochure at https://dl.dropbox.com/u/17999905/tumblr/2013_01/Environmental_Issues.pdf.

Fresh environmental topics -

- New Jersey's Turfgrass Fertilization Regulations and Certification
- New Jersey's Soil Health Regulations for New Developments
- Naturalized Suburban Areas for Wildlife and Stormwater Management
- Sea Level Rise in New Jersey
- Saltwater Intrusion in New Jersey
- Porous Pavements
- Water Conservation
- Invasive Aquatic Plants
- June 22, 2013, Saturday. Morris County electronics and hazardous waste recycling. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Morris County Public Safety Training Academy, 500 West Hanover Ave, Parsippany NJ 07054. QUESTIONS? Call (973) 631-5109, www.MCMUA.com.
- September 14, 2013, Saturday. Morris County electronics and hazardous waste recycling. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Morris County Public Safety Training Academy, 500 West Hanover Ave, Parsippany NJ 07054. QUESTIONS? Call (973) 631-5109, www.MCMUA.com.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:45 PM

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary